

service that Ken Crockett has dedicated to the State of West Virginia. For the last 11 years, Ken has served as the director of the West Virginia Japan Office in Nagoya, which sits in the Aichi Prefecture of Japan.

West Virginia has opened trade offices throughout the world in order to encourage economic relationships with our State. The Japan Office has helped draw a number of Japanese businesses to open new locations in West Virginia, as well as helped the businesses already in West Virginia export their products to Japan. In addition to the economic benefits of this relationship, the Japan office has facilitated a number of cultural and educational exchanges—all under Ken's leadership.

In Ken's years as director of the West Virginia Japan Office, our State and Japan have seen a dramatic, if not astronomical, rise in their economic relations. West Virginia is currently home to 19 Japanese companies that have created thousands of direct and indirect jobs for our State's citizens. Japanese investors have been, and continue to be, outstanding corporate citizens of West Virginia—contributing economically and culturally to the quality of the State.

I have seen Ken's work firsthand on a number of occasions in Japan on trade missions with various Governors. Ken's relationships and his presence in Nagoya have been very valuable for our development efforts. He operated with a strong dedication to our collective goals and an understanding of both Japan and West Virginia.

Very soon, Ken will be embarking on a new career with NGK Spark Plugs—West Virginia's first major Japanese investor—and a trailblazer for our State's Japanese automotive industry. Ken will bring to that job the same determination, commitment, and hard work ethic he brought to the State's economic development efforts. We look forward to working with him in his new position as we continue to strengthen our ties with our State's existing Japanese investors.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ken's service to my State and wish him the best in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WOFFORD

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Charles Wofford. Mr. Wofford is retiring from the position of Alabama area director of the Social Security Administration after over 45 years of dedicated service. He has served as the Area Director in Alabama since September 1979.

Mr. Wofford graduated from the University of Alabama in 1961 with a B.S. degree in biology. He began work with Social Security that same year as a claims representative trainee. He held additional increasingly responsible jobs as a claims authorizer, field representative, operations supervisor,

branch manager, assistant district manager, district manager, and has been an area director since April 1977 and came to Alabama in 1979 to serve as the Alabama area director at that time.

He is the senior area director in the United States, and has received numerous awards throughout his career for superior performance. He received a service award for spearheading an intense direct deposit campaign and a cash award in recognition of exemplary achievement in the area of DDS and field office relations. He has strived to build a strong management team and has worked to ensure that all employees are fully trained to perform to the best of their ability. He received the Deputy Commissioner's Citation for Outstanding Contributions as a member of the National Training Vision Workgroup.

I congratulate Mr. Wofford on his retirement. He has been a valued employee and wise mentor to many other employees. He enjoys traveling, and we wish him well in the future as he has more time to enjoy this favored pastime.●

HONORING DR. DAVID TAWEI LEE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. David Tawei Lee, who has been Taiwan's chief representative to the United States. Dr. Lee will be assuming his new post as Taiwan's top envoy in Canada this month, leaving his post in Washington to take on this new role in Ottawa.

I have known David for decades, and he has been a staunch ally and strong advocate for West Virginia. He has helped me, and our State, to make inroads in the Taiwanese economy and has been instrumental in the continuing success of businesses with roots in both Taiwan and West Virginia. This ongoing economic relationship is enormously important for both sides and has allowed West Virginia to continue to grow its burgeoning aviation industry and to explore business opportunities we never thought possible.

As a result of the hard work of Representative LEE and others, Sino-Swearingen Aircraft Company continues its push toward mass production of one of the most impressive business jets in the world. In addition, in my personal interactions with David, he has always been straightforward, honest, compassionate, and well-informed. I knew he would level with me during any difficult time and that I could count on him to fairly and accurately relay the results of our meetings to his people.

Representative LEE has worked hard during the last 2½ years to renew and strengthen the political, economic, and social ties that bind the United States and Taiwan. On many difficult occasions, David Lee has risen to the challenge, and as Taiwan's Chief Representative to the United States he has given

countless hours assisting lawmakers, administration officials, and the private sector in understanding the complex relationship between our people and ensuring that our longstanding friendship continues.

Representative LEE was educated at the National Taiwan University and received his Ph.D. in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. David is a true democrat, firmly committed to the principles of democracy and capitalism. He has been an asset for both Taiwan and the United States, and he has served Taiwan with honor, integrity, and distinction.

Dr. Lee's record of distinguished public service to his people spans more than two decades. He began his career at the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, Office in Washington, DC, in 1982 as a staff consultant and soon rose to various important posts in Taiwan's foreign ministry. From 1997 to 1998, he was Director-General, Government Information Office, and Government spokesman for Taiwan. From 1998 to 2001, he served as Deputy Foreign Minister; from 2001 to 2004, he was Taiwan's Representative to the European Union, stationed in Belgium. Since the summer of 2004, he has served as the Republic of China's chief representative in the United States.

Our loss here in Washington will be Canada's gain. In his new role as Taiwan's representative to Canada, David will continue to be a strong advocate for policies that will encourage expanded trade and a continuing good relationship between Taiwan and the rest of the world. Again, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Representative and Madame Lee the very best of luck. They are our good friends, and we will miss them.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries: